

In re Patent Application of:

THOMSON ET AL.

Serial No. **09/658,389**

Filed: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of Claims 8, 9, 19, 28, and 33-38. Accordingly, these claims need no further discussion herein. Claims 40-76 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof.

Applicants also wish to thank the Board of Appeals and Interferences for the helpful guidance provided in their recent decision. In that decision, the Board agreed with the Examiner and took the position that the terms "cylinder" and "axis" in the pending claims could be read more broadly than "circular cylinder" and "central longitudinal axis". Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 17 and 24 have been amended to clarify these terms as helpfully suggested. Dependent Claims 2, 8, 19 and 28 have also been amended for consistency.

As the Examiner correctly recognized in his Answer and Supplemental Answer, the Cheng patent fails to disclose a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective outer surface portions defining an imaginary circular cylinder and a recess therein for the steering tube, with each clamp member also having at least one fastener receiving passageway therein offset a predetermined distance from a central longitudinal axis defined by the imaginary circular cylinder as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 17 and 24. In view of the patentability of the independent claims, it is submitted that their dependent claims, that recite further

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distinguishing features are also patentable. These dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

A terminal disclaimer is also submitted to address the double patenting rejection in view of copending application serial no. 09/658,509.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the terminal disclaimer, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. A Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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